

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:178
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2001
DEVELOPMENT OF HANDICRAFTS SECTOR
RAMDAS ATHAWALE;T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government undertook any survey of handicrafts clusters in Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country for launching of a new scheme for the development of the handicrafts sector
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have initiated any scheme to streamline the assistance package for the handicrafts industry; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA)

- (a) to (d) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.178 REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF HANDICRAFTS SECTOR TO BE ANSWERED ON 8.3.2001.

(a) to (d) Government has recently approved a diagnostic study of handicrafts clusters in one district of Tamil Nadu. A similar study has been undertaken in other parts of the country in the States of Chattisgarh, Orissa, Rajasthan, J & K, Sikkim, Gujarat and West Bengal with a view to identifying area specific and crafts specific problems and the possible interventions. A new Scheme titled 'Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana' has been recently approved. This scheme is based on an integrated cluster development approach and is based on Self Help Group & Thrift and Credit model, which will enable the artisans to avail assistance from Government and from financial institutions. The scheme is an attempt to focus on the artisans directly with a view to organizing them into self-sustainable community enterprises.